



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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PRESS RELEASE

Volunteers Needed for Asian Longhorned Beetle Tree Survey

When: Saturday April 2, 2011 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, April 3, 2011)

Where: Brooklawn Park, meet at the Community Center, 1997 Acushnet Avenue

Why: To Protect New Bedford's Trees & Create Asian Longhorned Beetle Awareness

New Bedford, Massachusetts- In effort to protect New Bedford's trees from Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), the City of New Bedford and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a tree survey. City officials are seeking volunteers to help with the surveying process, no experience is necessary. As of the date of this release, there have been no confirmed reports of ALB in New Bedford.

Individuals interested in participating should meet at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at the Brooklawn Community Center, 1997 Acushnet Avenue, where a brief training session is planned. All supplies will be provided, including binoculars and refreshments. Volunteers should wear comfortable walking shoes or boots and bring drinking water. Please register for the event by calling the New Bedford Conservation Commission at (508) 991-6188. For more information about ALB read below or visit <http://www.mass.gov/agr/alb.htm>

What is an Asian Longhorned Beetle?

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) is an introduced pest that is thought to have been introduced to the United States via wood packing material shipped from Asia. ALB attacks many hardwood trees by chewing into the bark and laying eggs. This disrupts the tree's biological process and slowly kills the tree. ALB has been confirmed in Massachusetts and in other parts of the country. In the City of Worcester, ALB has caused massive tree damage which has lead to the removal of nearly 30,000 trees! ALB was also found in the City of Boston.

What does the Asian Longhorned beetle look like?

ALB is a large, bullet shape beetle about $\frac{3}{4}$ -1.5 inches long. It has a shiny black appearance with bright white spots; it has exceptionally long antennae that are banded black and white. The elongated feet are black and whitish-blue. Although its size and large mandibles causes it to appear threatening, the beetle is harmless to humans and pets.

Why Are Asian Longhorned Beetle Tree Surveys Important?

Tree surveys are important because it is the first step to document the presence of ALB. There have been no confirmed sightings of ALB in New Bedford as of yet and the planned tree survey will mark the first step in ALB awareness.

Trees are a valuable part of our community and enhance the quality of life for city residents. The loss of trees would result in the loss of privacy, wildlife habitat, shade, noise and wind buffering, flood/erosion control, and would decrease oxygen and carbon dioxide absorption.

Why Should I Volunteer At The Tree Survey?

ALB in New Bedford could lead to the loss of many hardwood trees. By volunteering your time you are making a difference and taking the first step in ALB awareness. Bring a friend and take pride in your city. Each volunteer will receive an ALB recycle tote bag as an appreciation gift!

